(iii) Wage income from NREP was 23 per cent of the average wage income of the household.

(iv) Involvement of beneficiaries in planning and selection of projects was minimal.

(v) Schemes benefitting SCs/STs were not taken up by most of the States.

(vi) In many cases execution of works is through contractors/middleman which resulted in leakage of funds and misuse of foodgrains.

(b) *Steps taken to improve the programme*:

(i) The programme guidelines have been suitably modified. In respect of certain deficiencies which need indepth consideration, action is being taken to bring out suitable modifications in the guidelines.

(III) *Rural Water Supply Programmes (RWSP)*:

(a) *Findings*:

(i) 79 per cent of all the water sources which have surveyed were found to be functioning.

(ii) 92 per cent of the water sources are based on pumping systems; 8 per cent on gravity system.

(iii) 27 per cent of the sources are located in SC populated areas and 12 per cent in ST populated areas against their respective population of 20 per cent and 8 per cent forming the sample survey.

(iv) 81 per cent of all the sources are easily accessible to SCs and 86 per cent to STs.

(b) *Steps taken to improve the programme*:

(i) A detailed action plan for full coverage of problem villages has been prepared for all the States for the current and remaining years of the Seventh Plan.

(ii) In order to tackle most critical areas first a strategy indicating priority for coverage has been given to the States.

(iii) States have been permitted to utilise upto 10 per cent of ARWSP funds for operation and maintenance activities to keep the rural water supply in an efficient working condition.

(iv) A National Technology Mission on Drinking Water has been set up with the objective of residual problem villages by March, 1990, to evolve cost effective technology mix to achieve the objective within the constraints of plan allocations.

Implementation of technology mission on drinking water

*256. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technology Mission on Drinknig Water had been running as per schedule and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there had been any unexpected difficulties in its implementation and if so, how these were rectified; and

(c) what is the expenditure incurred thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Technology Mission on Drinking Water is being implemented through Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Mission objective for the next 2 years is to cover nearly one lakh problem villages by March, 1990. The Mission has also undertaken 5 Sub-Missions on specific problem areas like Removal of Excess Iron, Desalination of water, Control of Fluorosis. Eradication of Guineaworm and Conservation of Water. 55 Mini Mission areas have also been selected for intensive effort. It is expected that the Mission will achieve the target of these one lakh problem villages in the remaining 2 years and also would be able to develop integrated approach and cost-effective technological packages in the Mini Mission areas.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) So far the Mission has spent Rs. 773.98 crores under MNP and ARWSP in 1986-87 and Rs. 504.75 crore (upto Dec. 1987) in 1987-88 Rs. 33.56 crores has been released for Mini Mission Projects in 1986-87 and 1987-88.

Request for central assistance to appoint labour inspectors

*257. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various State Governments have recently requested the Central Government for assistance in respect of appointment of Labour Inspectors at the block level, to effectively check the violations of labour laws, especially the Minimum Wages Act and the Bonded Labour Act; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Labour Ministers' Conference held on 20th May, 1987 emphasised that the enforcement machinery of the State Governments should be strengthened and upgraded with assistance from the Central Government. A recommendation was also made to improve the mobility of the enforcement staff. On the basis of discussion in the Regional Labour Ministers Conference of Southern, Eastern, Western and Northern regions, it was recommended that a fresh set of criteria for a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme for increasing the strength and mobility of the machinery should be worked out. In pursuance of these, a Working Group has been set up.

Agreement between the SAIL and the Orissa mining corporation to purchase Iron-ore and Manganese

*258. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has recently been signed by the Steel Authority of India Limited with the Orissa Mining Corporation to buy iron-ore and manganese; and

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) have entered into an agreement with M/s. Orissa Mining Corporation Limited (OMC) on 6-10-1987 for supply of manganese ore to its steel plants. However, no agreement has been concluded so far between SAIL and OMC for supply of iron ore.

(b) It will not be in the commercial interest of SAIL to divulge terms and conditions of the agreement.